

**From:** community@signifer.net@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 8:37am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to comment on the proposed Microsoft settlement, which I feel is wholly inadequate and needs to be revised. I've been an IT professional for five years now, both working with desktop computer systems and programming for them, so I'm aware both of the technical issues surrounding the Windows APIs and the effects they have on software produced for the desktop. In order to truly allow competition in the software market, Windows API specifications need to be provided to the software development community in an unrestricted and timely fashion, and the proposed settlement does not allow for this. Under the proposed settlement, Microsoft is required neither to completely document its APIs, or to release them soon enough that software developers can compete in meaningful ways. What's worse, the restrictions placed on the use of the documentation released are ridiculous, and would require other software vendors to go to extreme and inappropriate lengths to avoid violating those restrictions if they wish to use the information provided by Microsoft under the settlement. Just who is being punished here, anyway?

When one also considers the fact that disclosure of the Office file formats - one of the real keys to Microsoft's domination of the desktop market - is not included in the settlement, it becomes clear that the proposed solution is not sufficient either to reign in Microsoft or to effectively encourage competition in the software development industry. I urge you to rethink and rewrite it, and give some of us in the industry a real chance to make some changes in its dynamics. A pro forma resolution like the current draft is useless at best, and at worst an insult.

Sincerely,

Andrew  
Seidl